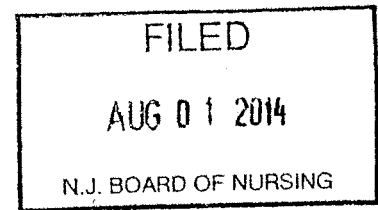


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

ARLENE LIPNITZ, R.N.  
LICENSE # NO 05648900

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information that respondent Arlene Lipnitz, R.N., while employed as a nurse at Trenton

Psychiatric Hospital on at least one occasion in February of 2012 documented assessment of the status of a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube that had been installed to feed patient S.C. in the event that he refused to eat. The records indicate that S.C. was a difficult patient. Respondent documented that the PEG tube was intact. However, on February 22, 2012, the patient's treating physician at the facility found the PEG tube had been removed, and the fistula wound had already healed completely. S.C. stated that he had pulled out the tube, or that it had fallen out, two weeks earlier.

According to respondent, the patient had refused assessment and flushing of his PEG tube and indicated that the tube was "OK," and that he did not want respondent to bother him. Nevertheless, respondent documented that she assessed the PEG tube.

According to respondent, on February 22, 2012, the patient's psychiatrist noted that the patient "refused to talk" and that he had "zero insight into his illness and judgment."

Respondent further maintains that prior to February 2012, S.C.'s physicians had not entered any order permitting respondent to request a "physical hold" in order to feed S.C. if he refused care. Respondent maintains that subsequently a "physical hold" order was authorized for S.C. Moreover, respondent maintains that

there is no indication that S.C. suffered any harm with respect to the removal of the PEG tube.

The Board finds that respondent's documentation that S.C.'s PEG tube was intact at a time when it could not have been intact indicates that she provided inaccurate documentation with regard to an assessment which did not occur, which constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

The parties desiring to resolve this matter without admissions and without further proceedings, and respondent waiving any right to a hearing, and the Board finding that the within order is sufficiently protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS ON THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF August, 2014

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. A reprimand is hereby imposed for respondent's violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).
2. A \$500 civil penalty is hereby imposed. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check, money order, or attorney trust account check, made payable to the State of New Jersey, and shall be submitted along with this signed order.
3. Respondent shall, within six months, document completion of a nursing ethics course pre-approved by the Board, which shall not be eligible towards satisfaction of respondent's continuing education obligations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. As respondent has

already provided documentation of completion of a Board-approved ethics course, no further action is required of respondent in this regard.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy PhD APN  
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C

I have read and understand  
the within Consent Order and  
agree to be bound by its terms.

Arlene Lipnitz RN  
Arlene Lipnitz, R.N.

Consent as to form and entry:

Alma L. Saravia  
Alma L. Saravia, Esq.  
Attorney for respondent